

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY PM/DCA:CCFLOWERREE:ILB

APPROVED BY PM/DCA - MR. BAKER

EUR/EE - MR. BROWN (DRAFT)

EUR/RPM - MR. CHRISTIANSON (DRAFT)

C - MR. SHINN (DRAFT)

ACDA - MR. ENGEL (DRAFT)

S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL MBFR VIENNA

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T STATE 205170

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SOVIET TROOPS IN
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

REF: MBFR VIENNA 0197 (NOTAL)

1. DURING RECENT CONVERSATION WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICER,
POLISH MINISTER WIEJACZ STATED THAT WHILE IN WARSAW AT
THE END OF JULY HE HAD HEARD THAT THE SOVIETS MIGHT OFFER
TO WITHDRAW THEIR TROOPS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN EXCHANGE
FOR WESTERN ACCEPTANCE OF OTHER ASPECTS OF THEIR MBFR
POSITION. WE RECALL THAT CZECH MBFR REP MEISNER TOLD AN
ALLIED REPRESENTATIVE IN VIENNA IN APRIL THAT "PERIOD OF
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NORMALIZATION" IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS COMING TO AN END AND

THEREFORE SOVIET FORCES THERE COULD BE WITHDRAWN. IN THIS CONVERSATION THE ALLIED REP WAS UNABLE TO DETERMINE WHETHER MEISNER MEANT THAT A SOVIET WITHDRAWAL MIGHT BE DONE UNILATERALLY OR AS PART OF AN MBFR AGREEMENT. NOR WAS DEPARTMENT OFFICER ABLE TO DRAW WIEJACZ OUT FURTHER ON WHAT LAY BEHIND HIS STATEMENT ON POSSIBLE SOVIET WITHDRAWALS WHICH HE LATER CHARACTERIZED AS "UNOFFICIAL SPECULATION."

2. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, WIEJACZ'S REMARKS ARE THE ONLY OTHER REFERENCE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF A SOVIET WITHDRAWAL FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE TO A WESTERN

OFFICIAL SINCE IT WAS FIRST RAISED BY MEISNER IN APRIL. ANY ADDITIONAL LIGHT WHICH ADDRESSEE POSTS MIGHT BE ABLE TO SHED ON THIS SUBJECT WOULD BE APPRECIATED. INGERSOLL

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